

**INTERPERSONAL MEANING ANALYSIS ON THE STAR-CHILD  
BY OSCAR WILDE**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirements  
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I truthfully testify that there is no plagiarism of literary work in this publication article which I submitted and it is really a work of mine, except the written references which are mentioned in the bibliography. Later, if it's proven that there is any plagiarism in the result of this publication article, I will be fully responsible and willing to accept sanction in according with applicable regulation.

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The researcher



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## INTERPERSONAL MEANING ANALYSIS ON THE STAR-CHILD BY OSCAR WILDE

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini meneliti analisis makna interpersonal pada “The Star-Child” yang ditulis oleh Oscar Wilde. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mencari tipe *mood* yang mencirikan didalam cerita pendek *The Star-Child* yang ditulis Oscar Wilde dan untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana makna interpersonal yang ada didalam cerita pendek *The Star-Child* yang ditulis oleh Oscar Wilde terwujud. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif karena data akan dideskripsikan berdasarkan makna interpersonal. Data penelitian ini diambil dari tuturan-tuturan dan klausa-klausa yang ada didalam cerita pendek *The Star-Child* yang ditulis oleh Oscar Wilde. Peneliti mengumpulkan data dengan observasi dan dokumentasi. Setelah mengumpulkan data, peneliti menemukan 96 tuturan dan 117 klausa dalam cerita pendek. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan makna interpersonal dari lexicogrammar pada Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) untuk menjawab rumusan masalah nomor satu. Untuk menjawab rumusan masalah nomor dua, peneliti menggunakan penggunaan konteks SFL di dalam cerita pendek. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa (1) ada satu jenis mood pada cerita pendek yaitu tipe mood indikatif. Jenis mood indikatif yang sering muncul dalam cerita pendek adalah tipe deklaratif. Klausa yang termasuk dalam deklaratif ada 98 klausa. (2) Makna interpersonal dalam cerita pendek diwujudkan melalui *finite*. Setelah menganalisis data, peneliti menemukan bahwa ada tiga bentuk *finite* yaitu *tenses*, polaritas, dan modalitas.

**Kata Kunci:** *SFL, makna interpersonal, cerita pendek*

### Abstract

This research investigates interpersonal meaning analysis on “The Star-Child” by Oscar Wilde. The purpose of this research is to find out mood types that characterize short story of The Star-Child by Oscar Wilde and to describe how interpersonal meanings are realized in short story of The Star-Child by Oscar Wilde. This research is qualitative research because the data will be described based on interpersonal meaning. The data of this research are taken from utterances and clauses of The Star-Child short story written by Oscar Wilde. The researcher collects the data by observation and documentation in collecting data. The researcher finds 96 utterances and 117 clauses in the short story. In analyzing data, the researcher uses interpersonal meaning of lexicogrammar on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework to answer problem statement number one. To answer problem statement number two, the researcher uses the context used in the short story on SFL framework. Based on the result of this research shows that (1) there are one mood type on the short story that is indicative mood type. Indicative mood type that characterizes in the short story is declarative type. The clauses that belong to declarative are 98 clauses. (2) Interpersonal meaning in the short story is realized through finite. After analyzing data, the researcher found that there are three form of finite. It is tenses, polarity, and modality.

**Keywords:** *SFL, interpersonal meaning, short story*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of studies that explain about language meaning is SFL. Systemic Functional Grammar (SFL) has been proposed originally by Halliday (Teich, 1999, p. 20). SFL focuses on how language constructs a meaning. It considers context and social network to determine the meaning. It attempts to explain language in actual use and to investigate the connection between text and context in social life. In SFL, there are three components of meaning. They are generalized as term “metafunction” which includes three language function namely ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning, and textual meaning (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 211).

Based on Gerot and Wignell statement (1994, p. 22), these interpersonal meanings are realized in the lexicogrammar through selections from the system of MOOD. It explains about meaning of the clause, its meaning as an exchange. It is making an utterance that is an interactive event inherently involving a speaker or writer and an addressee (listener or reader). A speaker, in uttering, selects a speech role for her or himself, and, simultaneously and thereby, allocates a speech role to the addressee.

Using mood analysis, researchers have tried to reveal that language structures can produce certain meanings and ideology which are not always explicit for readers and also can develop the language of children. In other words, the task of functional analysis, particularly mood analysis, is to discover the relation between meanings and wordings.

“The Star-Child” is short story that is written by Oscar Wilde. It is published firstly in 1891. Genre of this short story is fairy tale and fiction. The contents of it are fantasies. Because of that, it is more appropriate for children.

The reason why the researcher chooses The Star-Child short story is because the researcher wants to know how the short story can delivered to the children especially the children with the age of two years old to three years old. The language acquisition of children is very limited. According to Chomsky (1988), children are exposed to very little correctly formed language. Beside that, children do not simply copy the language that they hear around them (Fauziati, 2016, p. 141). So, if we want to increase the children’s language, we have to choose the language that is suitable to

the children. In addition to talk directly to children, we can use the short story to develop children's language. But, the short story which will be used has to be appropriate to the children.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested to analyze the short story of *The Star-Child* by interpersonal meaning analysis using Mood theory. All of the aspects in interpersonal meaning of the short story of *The Star-Child* using theory of Mood will be analyzed by the writer in the research. So, this research takes a title "Interpersonal Meaning Analysis on *The Star-Child* by Oscar Wilde".

The writer writes this research because the topic of this research had been researched by some researchers. So, in the other word, this research is the next research after some study. They are the study of Dyah in 2014 who writes research about *The Mood-Residu Structure in Snow White, An Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis of Some Selected Political Advertisement in Some Nigerian Newspapers* that was wrote by Olusanya in 2013. Beside that, there are *An Analysis of Interpersonal Meaning in a Political TV Interview* wrote by Huang in 2014, *Mood Types Analysis of Teaching and Learning Process in Immersion Class of Theresiana 1 Senior High School* wrote by Permata and Sunardi in 2015, and in 2018 Ashidiqi wrote *Interpersonal Meaning Analysis of Caption on Instagram Produced by Tertiary Students during 2017*.

This research is one step more profitable. Although only discussing the configuration elements of interpersonal meanings, the researcher can know and understand that with using short story, it can develop language children especially for the child with the age of two years old or more. It can be conclude that by analyzing using interpersonal meaning, the researcher has been able to understand the purpose of interpersonal meanings that is how the utterances or clauses is built. However in the five previous studies that conducted by Dyah (2014), Olusanya (2013), Huang (2014), Permata and Sunardi (2015), and Ashidiqi (2018), the researchers dicussed the mood structure, modality, pronouns system, appraisal system, and speech function to find out the main purpose of interpersonal meanings. The five previous studies were more complete but it took a lot of time. Although this research only discussed interpersonal meanings, but this research shows that with using short story,

it can develop the language children especially for the children with the age two years old.

The short story is more appropriate for children especially for developing the language of children. It is because the contents of it are fantasies. It can take children's attention and interest. Beside it can make children imaging about the content of the short story, it also can push the children to know and understand about language, especially for correct sentence structure.

This research is conducted based on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) which has been proposed by Halliday. It focuses on how language making meaning. It implies that SFL learns how language, text, and context work to make a meaning. There are three components in SFL that called 'metafunctions'. They are ideational meaning (to understand the environment), interpersonal meaning (to act on the other in it), and textual meaning (to breathe relevance into the other two) (Halliday, 1996, p. 12). This research focuses interpersonal meaning on The Star-Child short story by Oscar Wilde. The researcher chooses the short story because the content of short story is very interesting especially for children.

The purposes of this research are (1) to find out mood types that characterize short story The Star-Child by Oscar Wilde and (2) to describe how interpersonal meanings are realized in short story of The Star-Child by Oscar Wilde.

To prove the originally of this research, the researcher will show some previous study that has been done. Huang (2014) observed *Snip-Snap: An Analysis of Interpersonal Meaning in a Political TV Interview*. That study made a theoretically founded analysis on an episode in Feng Yun Dui Hua, a famous television program from Phoenix TV. That study mainly employed Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar theory. In addition, that study concerned the interpersonal metafunction. The specific data of that study is from an interview between the TV host Ruan Cishan and the contemporary US Secretary of State Colin Luther Powell. Through analysis of interpersonal meanings in the interview discourse, it is revealed that Mood, modality, person pronouns and Appraisal system are all important devices to reveal the features of the political TV interview. The similarity between that study written by Huang and this research is the data of those researches analyzed based on



interpersonal meaning. The difference between both of those researches is the object of those researches which is used. Huang study uses political TV interview but this research uses The Star-Child short story by Oscar Wilde.

There are several theories related to this research. According to Halliday and Hasan (1985), Systemic Functional Linguistics views language in a social semiotic perspective. Social in social-semiotic perspective means two things. The first one is social used in the sense of social systems. The second one, social indicates the relationship between language and its social structure. Gerot and Wignell (1994, p. 6) stated “Functional grammars view language as a resource for making meaning”. It means that those grammar more concerns on language in use. Fauziati (2016, p. 84) stated “SFL is a theory of language which highlights the relationship between language, text, and context”. It implies that SFL learns how language, text, and context work to make a meaning.

In Lock (1996, p.8) stated that SFL has three components of meaning called “metafunction” which can be analyzed in grammatical structure, namely ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning, and textual meaning. Ideational meaning expresses cognitive meaning. Interpersonal meaning expresses speech functional meaning by drawing on the systems and networks of MOOD. The textual meaning expresses discoursal meaning by drawing on the systems and networks of Theme to create and realize utterances (or texts) in actual communicative events and to organize these utterances in ways which are not only able to carry propotional content but are also ordered cohesively and coherently.

Interpersonal meanings are meanings through which social relations are creates and maintained. These are realized in the lexicogrammar through selections from the systems of MOOD. These meanings are talking about the clause as an exchange.

This is one of example of utterance in The Star-Child short story by Oscar Wilde:

**“But we can’t leave this little baby here alone”**

But we can’t leave this little baby here alone

Subject	Fint	Pred.	Complement	Adjunct	Adjunct
Mood		Residue			

The utterance above is recognized as indicative mood that belongs to declarative mood type. It can be seen by the position of the subject and finite. Subject of this utterance is located in the beginning of the utterance and is followed by finite.

The meaning of this utterance above is impossibility. It is showed by the finite of the utterance. It is “can’t”. The word “can’t” shows the fact of being impossible. The writer uses “can’t” to make sure that his statement is impossible happened.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher will conduct research paper entitled *Interpersonal Meaning Analysis on The Star-Child by Oscar Wilde*.

## **2. METHOD**

The type of this research is qualitative research because it contains of descriptive analysis. The object of this research is interpersonal meaning focused on mood types that is found in the short story. The data of this research is utterances and clauses found in The Star-Child short story written by Oscar Wilde. The data will be analyzed descriptively based on interpersonal meanings theory. There are 96 utterances and 117 clauses which are selected by the researcher. The researcher collects the data by observation and documentation. For analyzing the data, the researcher uses interpersonal meaning of lexicogrammar on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework to find out mood types that characterize short story The Star-Child by Oscar Wilde. Beside that, the researcher uses the context used in The Star-Child by Oscar Wilde on SFL framework to describe how interpersonal meanings in short story of The Star-Child by Oscar Wilde are realized.

### 3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In interpersonal meaning analysis, the data has the form of utterance or clause. So, in this research, the data is the clauses in utterances of The Star-Child. The data will be analyzed by using interpersonal meaning. It is mood types of interpersonal meaning, meaning of clause that is shown by finite, and how structure of clauses are organized. The complete analysis of interpersonal meaning is as follow:

#### Datum 01

“Perhaps we will find a pot of gold.”

Perhaps	we	will	find	a pot of gold
Adjunct	Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement
	Mood		Residue	

The utterance above is recognized as indicative mood that belongs to declarative mood type. It can be seen by the position of subject and finite. Subject of the clause is located in the beginning of the clause and is followed by finite.

The meaning of the utterance above is probability. It is showed by the finite of the clause. It is “will”. The word “will” shows the strong likelihood of something happening. The writer uses “will” to make sure that his statement is probable happened.

#### Datum 07

“Why do you cause pain to others?”

Why	do	you	cause	pain	to others?
Adjunct/Wh.	Fin.	Subject	Pred.	Comp.	Adjunct
	Mood		Residue		

The utterance above is recognized as indicative mood that belongs to interrogative mood type. It can be seen by the position of subject and finite. Subject of the clause is located after finite of the clause. Beside that, there is querying residue in beginning clause that is adjunct “why”.

The meaning of the utterance above is certainty of the present. It is showed by the finite of the clause. It is “do”. The word “do” as finite shows the state of being completely confident in the present.

### **Datum 18**

“If you do not do this I will beat you three hundred times.”

If    you            do not    do            this

Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement
Mood		Residue	

I            will        beat            you            three hundred times

Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood		Residue		

The utterance above consists of two clauses. The first clause is “If you do not do this”. The second clause is “I will beat you three hundred times”.

The first and the second clause are recognized as indicative mood that belongs to declarative mood type. It can be seen by the position of subject and finite. Subject of the clause is located in the beginning of the clause and is followed finite.

The first clause has meaning of uncertainty of the present. It is showed by the finite of the clause. It is “do not”. The word “do not” shows the feeling of not being sure what will happen in the future. The writer uses “do not” to make sure for his disclaimer.

The second clause has meaning of probability. It is showed by the finite of the clause. It is “will”. The word “will” in the second clause shows the strong

likelihood of something happening. The writer uses “will” to make sure that his statement is probable happened.

After analyzing the data, the researcher found that declarative clause is mostly used in the short story. It is aimed to convince content of the short story. Then, in the short story, the tense that is frequently used is simple present tense which has meaning to declare the certainty of the present.

The result shows that utterances of the short story have the form of declarative clauses and interrogative clauses. Declarative clauses are most dominant appeared in the short story. The percentage of this is 84,6%. In the other hand, the percentage of interrogative clauses in short story is 15,4%. The utterances that have form of declarative clauses is often used because it is aimed to convince the content of the short story.

Whereas based on the analysis of this research, the researcher finds that the short story of The Star-Child shows the interpersonal meaning through finites. They are through tenses, modality, and polarity. The tenses that is used as finite in the short story consists of 49,6%. Finite which is showed by modality is as much as 32,5%. Beside that, polarity which is as finite in the short story is 17,5%.

Based on the analysis, the interpersonal meaning is frequently come up through tenses. The percentage of this is 49,6%. There is two points that is found by the researcher in the tenses as formation of interpersonal meaning. It is simple present tense and past tense. In the short story, simple present tense is often formed. It can be referred by the percentage of it which is 58,6%. But, the percentage of simple past tense is 41,4%. Simple present tense used in this short story is aimed to explain the certainty of the present of the content of the short story.

Beside showed through tenses, finite in this short story is come up through modality. The percentage of modality as finite to show the interpersonal meaning is 32,5%. There are three modalities that are appeared. They are “will”, “must”, and “can”. Between those modalities, the modality that is often used is “will”. It has percentage 55,3%. It has purpose of stating the probability something happen in the short story. For modality “must” takes percentage 31,6%. And, the smallest one is modality “can”, that has percentage 13,2%.

Then, finite in the short story is also formed through polarity. it has the smallest percentage than the other such as tenses and modality. It is 17,5%. In polarity of the short story, it is divided into three polarities. They are “don’t”, “can’t”, and “won’t”. The polarity of “don’t” is the most dominant appeared in the short story. It takes percentage 71,4%. It is often used to explain the uncertainty of the present in the short story.

From the analysis, it can be concluded that there are some clauses which has the same mood type, meaning, and finite. The clauses that belong to declarative mood type and have meaning certainty of the present with the form of finite simple present tense are 23 clauses and have percentage 19,66%. The clauses that belong to declarative mood type and have meaning probability with the form of finite will are 19 and the percentage 16,24%. The clauses that belong to declarative mood type and have meaning certainty with the form of finite must are 11 clauses and the percentage 9,40%. The clauses that belong to declarative and have meaning uncertainty of the present with the form of finite don’t are 15 clauses with percentage 12,82%. The clauses that belong to declarative mood type and have meaning certainty of the past with the form of finite simple past tense are 20 clauses with the percentage 17,09%. The clauses that belong to interrogative with the meaning of certainty of the present and the form of finite simple present tense are 11 clauses and the percentage 9,40%. The clauses which belong to interrogative and have meaning certainty of the past with the form of finite simple past tense are 4 clauses with the percentage 3,42%. The clause that belongs to interrogative mood type and has meaning of certainty with the form of finite must is 1 clause with the percentage 0,85%. The clauses that belong to declarative mood type and have meaning possibility with the form of finite can are 4 clauses and the percentage 3,42%. The clauses that belong to declarative mood type and have meaning impossibility with the form of finite can’t are 4 clauses with the percentage 3,42%. The clauses that belong to declarative mood type with having meaning improbability and the form of finite won’t are 2 clauses and the percentage 1,71%. The clause that belongs to interrogative mood type and has meaning possibility with the form of finite can is 1 clause with the percentage 0,85%. And the last, the clauses that belong to

interrogative mood type and have meaning probability with the form of finite will are 2 clauses with the percentage 1,71%.

After analyzing, it can be conclude that only by analyzing type of mood and how interpersonal meaning occurred, the researcher has been able to understand that the purpose of interpersonal meaning is how the language connecting between the events. So, it can facilitate people to read and understand easily. In addition, it is not only facilitating the adult to understand, but it also can develop the language of children, especially for the children with the age of two years old to three years old.

Based on the result the analysis, the short story uses simple tenses which are simple present tense and simple past tense. in addition, finite that is used in the short story is not complicated and various. Those are suitable with the children ability especially for the children with the age of two years old to three years old. Because children with the age of two years old to three years old appear to be able to string word, ranging from two to five and often more words. Beside that, their utterances who they build just contain content words and no grammatical. So, it can be concluded that with reading the short story to the children can develop and increase the language ability of the children.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

From the data, the researcher finds only one mood type of the short story based on the analysis. It is indicative. There are two type of indicative, it is declarative and interrogative. Based on the analysis, the researcher finds all indicative type in the short story. The clause that belongs to declarative is 98 clauses. And, the clause which belongs to interrogative is 19 clauses. So, by knowing the result of analysis, it can be concluded that mood type which characterize in the short story is declarative indicative mood type.

Interpersonal meaning is realized through finite. Based on the analysis data, the researcher finds three form of finite. It is tenses, polarity, and modality. There are two finite types that have form of tenses. It is simple present tense and simple past tense. Finite which has form of polarity and is used in the short story is “do not”,

cannot”, and “will not”. Finite that has form of modality and is used in the short story is “can”, “will” and “must”.

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